been taken in case of missing defence personnel of 1971 War. The Government will continue to take up the issue of missing defence personnel with the Government of Pakistan as it has been doing in the past.

Delay in production by naval shipyards

1674. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) does the Government acknowledge that certain key strategic projects undertaken by the naval shipyards under the licenses production have been delayed;

(b) if so, whether such a delay is due to lack of human resources and physical infrastructure at the shipyards;

whether it is **a** fact that the delay has been also caused due to non-transfer of design and key systems by the supplier; and

if so**,** what steps are being taken by the Government to discount repeated delays in strategic projects undertaken by the shipyards

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence projects have long gestation periods due to their complexities and scope of work. Further details can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Pension to retired defence civilian employees

1675. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

the number of retired defence civilian employees in the country;

whether it is a fact that they receive their pension from the Defence budget;

whether it is also a fact that Canteen Stores Department (CSD) services facility is not available to them; and

if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of retired defence civilian pensioners is assessed to be 5,08,537 as on 1.4.2007, including family pensioners.

While defence civilian pensioners of the three Services receive their pension from Defence Pensions Budget (Demand No. 21), some other pensioners, such as those from the Defence Accounts Department and the Coast Guard Organisation are paid pension out of the Civil Pension Budget (Demand No. 39).

and (d) Canteen facilities have not been extended to retired defence civilian pensioners because there is no provision.

Housing to defence personnel

1676. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the welfare bodies/societies which are meant to provide housing to defence personnel on "no profit no loss' basis;